(c) and (d) The procedure for environmental clearance is reviewed from time to time in order to further streamline the process and make the decision making process simpler, time bound and more transparent.

New Pollution Control Laws

1108. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the centre has studied the impact of Himachal Pradesh Non-biodegradable Garbage Control Act, 1996, Himachal Pradesh Government Special Ordinance, on keeping Manali Town area free of pollution and environmental hazards:

(b) if so, the findings thereon; and

(c) whether the Centre would consider enactment of similar laws to protect Urban/Industrial conglomerations all over the country?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) As per the information furnished by the State Government of Himachal Pradesh, powers have been vested with the local authority including Nagar Panchayat for removal of non-biodegradable garbage under the provisions of Non-Biodegradable garbage (Control) Act, 1995. Accordingly the Nagar Panchayat Manali has imposed ban on the use of Polythene bags. The Nagar Panchayat has also initiated a scientific project with the help of Norwegian Government and has started door-do-door collection of garbage. Further, the State Council for Science, Technology and Environment have organised workshop on the solid waste management in October, 2002 for increasing public awareness.

(c) Central Government has formulated and issued a comprehensive Municipal Solid Wastes (Management and Handling) Rules, 2000 under the powers conferred by section 3, 6 and 25 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 (29 of 1986). Under these rules every municipal authority has been made responsible for collection, segregation, storage, transportation, processing and disposal of municipal solid wastes in the country.

Death of Trees in Delhi

1109. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether, according to various studies conducted by Kalpavriksh and

other institutes, concretisation of pavements is the root cause behind tree deaths in Delhi;

(b) whether digging near the tree trunks, thereby cutting of the roots, is also the second major factor;

(c) if so, the reasons for such heavy tiling or stoning of pavements, especially when it is not used by pedestrians; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government to protect the trees, which play a major role in bringing down the pollution level on the roads in Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) The factors identified for the mortality of avenue trees include soil compaction, frost, engineering works, trenching of root zone and trunk rot etc.

(c) and (d) Stoning and tiling of pavements is done to provide a safe walking place for the pedestrians. While stoning of pavement is done, care is taken to leave sufficient breathing space for the trees. The steps taken to protect the trees are as follows:

(i) The 'Delhi Tree Preservation Act, 1994' has been enacted to check felling of green trees including prevention of damage to the trees.

(ii) Forest Department, Government of NCT of Delhi has established 'Tree help Line' to register complaints for redressal of the public grievances against offenders involved in tree offences.

(iii) A guideline has been issued to all concerned agencies to leave an open space of 6'x6' around the tree trunk for water recharge and saving the tree roots from damage. In case of any damage to the tree reported upon, action is initiated against the offedners as per law.

The New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) has taken steps such as de-tiling 6'x6' area around the tree, reduction of width of pucca pavement to the extent of 4' to $4^{1}/_{2}$' in all future constructions, regular washing of trees to remove dust etc. and adoption of plant protection measures.

Forest Cover in A.P.

1110. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have assessed the present forest cover in Andhra Pradesh;